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NEW DATA ON THE PALAEARCTIC XANTHOLININI. 11. NEW SPECIES AND NEW RECORDS FROM AFGHANISTAN

(COLEOPTERA, STAPHYLINIDAE, STAPHYLININAE)

271st contribution to the knowledge of the Staphylinidae

INTRODUCTION

A long time ago the Russian geologist and specialist of Scarabaeidae Oleg Kabakov, who recently died, sent to me as a gift a lot of Xantholinini collected in Afghanistan in the years 1969-1972. The study of this material allows me to describe now two new species of *Gyrohypnus* Leach, 1819 and *Leptacinus* Erichson, 1839 and to list some interesting records, as *Sylea afghanica* (Coiffait, 1982) and *Leptacinus karakorus* Coiffait, 1975. It is likely that all the specimens were collected in dung, because Kabakov was studying Scarabaeids Onthophagini.

The contributions devoted to Afghan Staphylinidae are very few (I remember Scheerpeltz 1960 and 1963, Bordoni 1975, Tronquet 1981 and Coiffait 1982), whereby the knowledge of this family from that region is very superficial, also due to the still present geopolitical and environmental reasons; consequently also a small enrichment of our knowledge is of particular interest. For the quoted species I add also some records coming from other countries.

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All the mentioned specimens are preserved in my private collection (cB), apart the paratype of *Gyrohypnus nuristanicus* n. sp. in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "G. Doria" of Genova (MSNG) and some specimens of *Gyrohypnus ochripennis* (Eppelsheim, 1892) preserved in the Naturhistorisches Museum in Berlin (NMB) and in the Naturhistorisches Museum in Basel (NHMB).

TAXONOMY

Gyrohypnus fracticornis (Müller, 1776)

Examined material. Afghanistan, Oruzgan, Qonag pass, 3000-3200 m, 30.VII-1.VIII.1970, leg. Kabakov, 3 exx.; Kabul, 1800 m, 12.III.1971, leg. Kabakov, 1 ex.; Herat, Adraskan, 1300 m, 6-IX.1969, leg. Kabakov, 1 ex.; Nuristan, N Waygal, 2700 m, 7-9. VII.1972, leg. Kabakov, 3 exx. (cB).

Distribution. This is a widespread species (SMETANA 2004), already known from Afghanistan (BORDONI 1975).

Gyrohypnus ochripennis (Eppelsheim, 1892) (Figs. 1-4)

Examined material. Afghanistan, Oruzgan, Sharestan, 2500 m, 18.VII.1970, leg. Kabakov, 1 ex.; Nuristan, S. Capa-Dara, 1800 m, 24.V.1971, leg. Kabakov, 1 ex.; Ghor, Tulak, 2600 m, 1.XI.1969, leg. Kabakov, 1 ex. (cB); Chino Turkestan, 1890, leg. Conradt, 4 exx. (NMB), 2 exx. (cB); Tadzhikistan, 15 km S Nurek, 1000-1300 m, 14-17.IV.1992, leg. S. Kasantsev, 1 ex. (NHMB), 1 ex. (cB).

Distribution. This species was known from Russian South Territory (Kavkaz), Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (SMETANA 2004). New record for Afghanistan, Tajikistan and China. Chino Turkestan or Oriental Turkestan corresponds to actual Sinkiang in China.

Note. This is one of the few *Gyrohypnus* species easily identifiable by the outward appearance: slender body, reddish brown with black head; sub-rectangular, long and narrow head; dense puncturation on head and dorsal series of pronotum made of 11-13 punctures. I offer the figures of the genitalia (Figs 1-4).

The inner sac of *Gyrohypnus* is difficult to interpret, because it is always closely wound on itself and often devoid of appreciable sclerotized structures, within a basal bulb almost uniformly subovoid, so that it must be removed from the basal bulb and outstretched in a microscopic preparation. The shape of the paramere in lateral view is also useful for the species identification, as in the proposed figures.

Gyrohypnus nuristanicus **n. sp.** (Figs. 5-8)

Holotype ♂: Afghanistan, Nuristan, N Waygal, 2700 m, 7.VII.1972 leg. Kabakov (cB); paratype ♀: same data (MSNG).

Description. Length of body 7 mm; from anterior margin of head to posterior margin of elytra: 3.7 mm. Shape of the body similar to that one of *G. ochripennis* but more robust; head long and narrow, sub-rectangular but a little wider than in *ochripennis*; similar colouration but reddish brown darker, with black head; puncturation of head less wrinkled; dorsal series of pronotum of 15-16 punctures; lateral series divergent posteriad, long as pronotum, consisting of 11-12 closed punctures; elytra longer and dilated posteriad, with less marked humeral angles; surface with superficial, broad and sparser puncturation.

Tergite and sternite of the male genital segment as in figs 5-6. Aedeagus small, 0.74 mm long, sub-ovoidal; parameres as in fig. 7; inner sac short and narrow, dilated only in the proximal portion, covered with scales and spinulae (fig. 8).

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to Nuristan region.

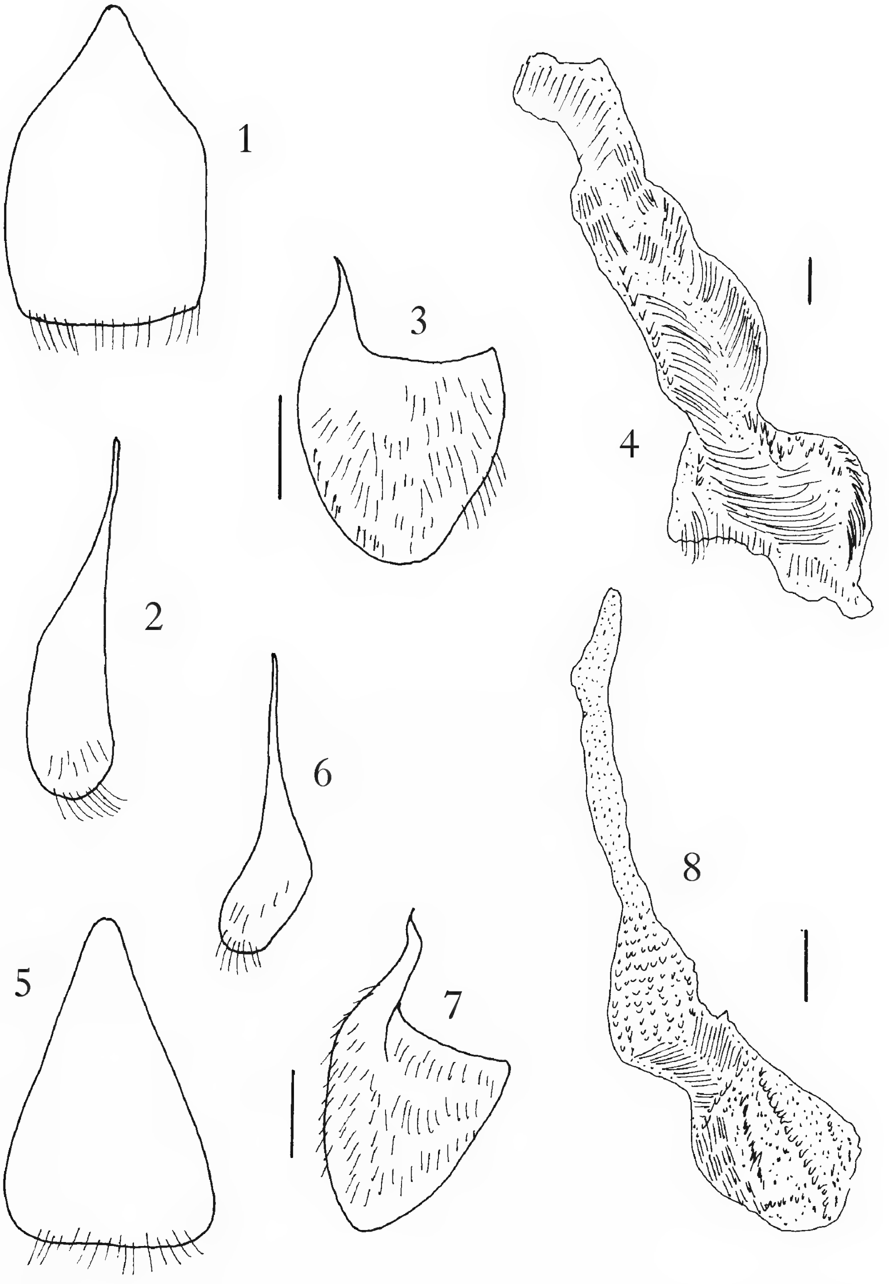
Distribution. The species is known only from the type locality.

Note. This species is closely related to *G. ochripennis* but differs by size, colouration, puncturation and inner sac of the aedeagus.

Leptacinus sulcifrons Stephens, 1833

Examined material. Afghanistan, Nuristan, N Kamdes, 2500 m, 20.IX.1971, leg. Kabakov, 2 exx. (cB).

Distribution. This is a widespread species (SMETANA 2004), also cited from Afghanistan (SCHEERPELTZ 1963; HORION 1965; TRONQUET 1981; HERMAN 2001; SMETANA l. c.).

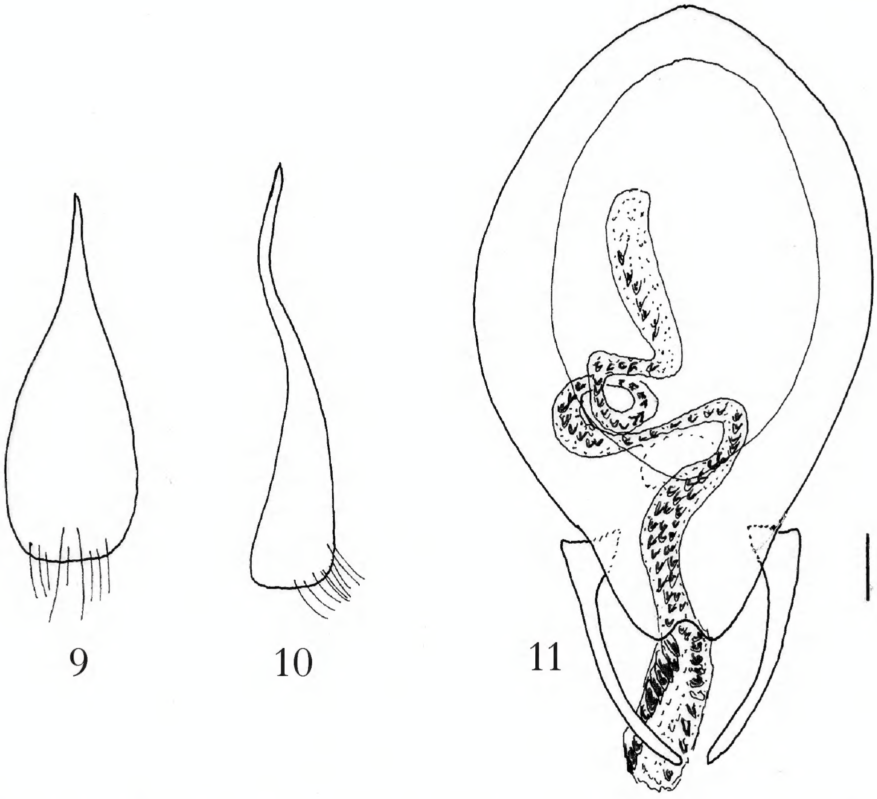


Figs 1-8 - *Gyrohypnus ochripennis* (Eppelsheim) (1-4) and *Gyrohypnus nuristanicus* n. sp. (5-8): tergite (1, 5) and sternite (2, 6) of the male genital segment, paramere in lateral view (3, 6) and inner sac (4, 8) (scale bar: 0.1 mm).

***Leptacinus afghanus* n. sp.** (Figs. 9-11)

Holotype ♂: Afghanistan, Oruzgan, Gezab, 1300 m, 9.VI.1970, leg. Kabakov (cB).

Description. Length of body 4.6 mm; from anterior margin of head to posterior margin of elytra: 2.5 mm. Body reddish brown with yellowish pale elytra, especially on the posterior half; antennae missing; legs yellowish brown. Head sub-rectangular, slightly narrow forward, with sub-rectilinear sides and strictly rounded posterior angles. Eyes very small and a little protruding. Surface of head with traces of more or less polygonal micro-reticulation, and deep, dense puncturation only on the lateral portions. Pronotum as long as head, a little dilated forward where it is slightly narrower than head, with sub-rectilinear sides and largely rounded



Figs 9-11 - *Leptacinus afghanus* n. sp.: tergite (9) and sternite (10) of the male genital segment and aedeagus (11) (scale bar: 0.1 mm).

anterior angles. Surface with dorsal series of 7-8 punctures and lateral, oblique series of 6-7 punctures; other punctures near the anterior angles. Elytra as long as pronotum, wider than it, dilated posteriad, with marked humeral angles. Surface with superficial, dense puncturation, arranged in some series. Abdomen with transverse micro-striation and fine, sparse puncturation.

Tergite and sternite of the male genital segment as in figs 9-10. Aedeagus (fig. 11) sub-ovoidal, 1.1 mm long; median lobe with an emargination in the middle; parameres long and narrow; inner sac tape-like, folded on itself and covered with evident scales.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to Afghanistan.

Distribution. The species is known only from the type locality.

Note. This species differs from the congeners by the shape of the median lobe and by the very different inner sac of aedeagus. It differs also from the Afghan *L. simeki* Bordoni, 1975 whose inner sac is apparently invisible; *L. simeki* differs from the new species also for the long and thin parameres and for the presence of the distal sclerites, absent in *L. afghanus*.

Leptacinus karakorus Coiffait, 1975

Examined material . Afghanistan, Nuristan, SW Capa-Dara, 1500 m, 9.VI.1971, leg. Kabakov, 1 ♂ (cB).

Distribution. The species is known from North Pakistan (Karakorum, Swat, Chitral, Hazara) and North India (Ladak, Himachal Pradesh) (BORDONI 2002). New record for Afghanistan.

Sylea afghanica (Coiffait, 1982)

Examined material. Afghanistan, Kabul, 12.III.1969, leg. Kabakov, 1 ex.; id., 9.XII.1969, 8 exx.; id., 20.X.1970, 2 exx.; id., 12.III.1971, 1 ex.; NO Kabul, Tagab, 6.III.1970, leg. Kabakov, 2 exx.; Laghman, Samakat, 1500 m, 8.I.1972, leg. Kabakov, 1 ex. (cB).

Note. The genus *Sylea* Bordoni, 2001 was characterized in its description and subsequently (BORDONI 2013). The species seems not uncommon in Afghanistan, probably living in dung.

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ABSTRACT

Gyrohypnus nuristanicus n. sp. and *Leptacinus afghanus* n. sp., from Afghanistan, are described and figured. *Gyrohypnus ochripennis* (Eppelsheim, 1892) is a new record for Afghanistan, Tajikistan and China; *Leptacinus karakorus* Coiffait, 1975 is a new record for Afghanistan.

RIASSUNTO

Nuovi dati sugli Xantholinini paleartici. 11. Nuove specie e nuovi reperti dell'Afghanistan (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae).

L'autore descrive due nuove specie afgane (*Gyrohypnus nuristanicus* e *Leptacinus afghanus*) e fornisce nuovi dati geonemici relativi ad alcuni Xantholinini raccolti in Afghanistan e nelle regioni limitrofe. *Gyrohypnus ochripennis* (Eppelsheim, 1892) viene citato per la prima volta per Afghanistan, Tagikistan e Cina; *Leptacinus karakorus* Coiffait, 1975 è specie nuova per l'Afghanistan.

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